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LETTERS TO THE STAR

Spy in the Sky

After reading the official statements of the CIA on its instructions to U-2 pilot Gary Powers, and the "public relations" gobbledegook trying to explain him away as not being a spy, it appears that the "no-win" policy attributed by some critics to the State Department, has now been blatantly admitted by our highest intelligence organization. If there is an inexplicable geophysical disturbance in the Nation's cemeteries, I can only hasten to assume that it is caused by the bodies of those valiant heroes of the OSS turning over unhappily in their graves at the puerile outcome of what was once a great espionage organization.

Americans who originally vented their patriotic wrath on Powers, wondering how he could get by with his disgraceful confessions to the Russians while military men from lowest private or seaman to top admiral or general are forbidden to do so by the code of conduct, may now shift ire to the confessedly complacent CIA. It seems obvious from their statement that "cloak and dagger" has been replaced by the relatively harmless philosophy of a childish game of "cops and robbers."

Any GI cook earning \$78 a month, and with no more knowledge of national security than the per ounce ration of mashed potatoes per man unit, may be subject to court-martial for revealing to his captors any more than name, rank and serial number. But the CIA man may tell nearly all and become a smiling

that "no such doubts exist today" would seem to me to be true except I have my doubts as to how your Mary feels about it.

Robert E. Trimble.

Perhaps my status as a young (30), retired (on physical disability), naval officer (Naval Academy—Class of 1954) has warped my judgment and biased my point of view concerning such matters, but still I should like to raise a point apparently overlooked concerning "L'Af-faire Powers."

Why is it necessary to hire men at \$30,000 a year to perform these missions with implicit instructions to cooperate with their captors when caught (with all the inherent risk of possible compromise), when there are literally hundreds of thousands of other men qualified and available for these jobs from whom, for a comparative gift, ranging from \$85 to \$500 a month, the Government demands absolute silence on any subject beyond the realm of "name, rank and serial number"?

Doesn't anyone remember the Air Force lieutenant who refused repatriation in Korea's "Freedom Village" until and not before the false statements attributed to him by the Communists had been retracted? Are we now telling this man (and the many others like him) that he was really something of a fool to have so zealously pursued the only course open to him rather than treason?

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